

Cross-Cultural Sayings and Proverbs

Cultural values are often explicitly stated in sayings and proverbs. Some have similar versions in multiple cultures and languages but others are specific to an individual culture. Read the following sayings. Choose 3-5 and summarize the meaning and write a list of associated values. When you finish, add your own favorite sayings and proverbs from your culture. To make it fun, translate them into English so you can share them with the group when we return to the main room.

[CLICK HERE](#) to see a list of 200 values

Proverb	Message	Values
The nail that sticks up feels the hammer first.		
To speak and eat fish, you must be careful.		
Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.	You can trust people only once. If they trick you again, it's your fault.	Trust, loyalty, love, sentimentalism
No flies get into a closed mouth.		
A word is not a sparrow; once it flies out of you, you can't catch it.		
Better take what is certain than aim for the uncertain.		
Just because you wake up early, the dawn won't happen any sooner.		
An ounce of protection is worth a pound of cure.		
Idle hands are the devil's plaything.	You need to keep yourself busy. Otherwise, lots of free will mess you up.	Productivity, good vs. evil
Curses, like chickens, come home to roost.		
Don't bite off more than you can chew.	Be mindful of how much you can handle.	Efficiency, humbleness
Don't toot your own horn. (Don't blow your own trumpet.)		
If it ain't broke, don't fix it.		
Fortune favors the brave.		

It takes two to tango.		
Practice what you preach.		

Our Favorite Proverbs

Proverb	Message	Values
El perfume viene en frascos pequeños, pero el veneno también. Perfume comes in small flasks, but so does poison.	The best things come in small bottles. Short people sometimes they get offended with comments, but they can also defend themselves	
Muerto el perro, se acaba la rabia.	Attack the root of the problem.	